



The Visitor

A newsletter for members and friends
of First Baptist Church, Madison, Wisconsin

No. 20 November 6, 2017 Vol. 60

Dear Friends:

Several groups within our congregation are reading the extraordinary book entitled The Book of Joy: Lasting Happiness in a Changing World. What makes this book so extraordinary is it is a record and commentary on the conversations between two deep friends on the occasion of one's eightieth birthday. At a time when religious differences have proven so divisive, these two friends slip easily across what others might see the borders between Buddhism and Christianity. Nobel Prize Laureates His Holiness the Dalai Lama received Archbishop Desmond Tutu in Dharamshala, India for a three-week long conversation and birthday celebration.

In a chapter entitled "Our Greatest Joy," the Archbishop was asked to clarify what he meant by joy. The observation was made, "You are talking about something that is available right now, without waiting for anything." Desmond Tutu answered "I mean simply to say that ultimately our greatest joy is when we seek to do good for others. It's how we are made. I mean we're wired to be compassionate. We are wired to be caring and generous to one another."

Joy and generosity belong together. This is not our usual approach to Pledge Sunday this coming November 12. More often there is something weighty setting the tone. There is a sense of obligation to contribute; a sense of duty; a scrutiny of the budget and each line's allotment. But joy? No, the budget and our pledges are a serious matter. This discussion carried in anything but a joyful fashion. We have perhaps developed too much of a business focus, a personal financial management perspective, and an accounting of costs.

What slips out of sight is the virtue of generosity. The joy of giving. The joy in supporting, sustaining, and transforming the lives of others. The joy that we have while playing our role in the flourishing of other people's lives.

Reaching well beyond any obligatory sense of duty, The Archbishop adds: "And yet we pour out our hearts. We give resources to help them because we realize that we are bound up together. We are bound up and can be human only together."

I was once told, with some wisdom, that the church has no expenses! It's all about investments. Investments in the lives of others, in their care in their flourishing, in tying our lives together in community. It is about investing in lives beyond our city, state, nation, and world that they too may live. All while we ourselves are transformed through our worship of the God made known to us in Jesus Christ. To understand Pledge Sunday as our time to invest in the care and well-being of all those people who surround us both near and far. . . well a day rarely gets better than that! Joy.

The Apostle Paul, in his second letter to the Corinthians (9:7) writes: "Everyone should give whatever they have decided in their heart. They shouldn't give with hesitation or because of pressure. God loves a cheerful giver." There it is—the joyful gift. Both Desmond Tutu and Paul speak of giving as a matter of the heart. It is through the heart that joy enters our lives.

I ask you to prayerfully consider your heart's generosity this week in preparation of making your pledge. Ponder those parts of our ministry and mission which make your heart leap. Sit awhile and stay with this heartfelt sense. Feel the joy within your soul. God loves a cheerful giver. Claim your joy and match it with your generosity. This coming Sunday is certainly something we can joyfully anticipate.

In peace,

Rev. Mark Clinger

Worship With Us

November 12, 2017 – Pledge Sunday

11:00 a.m. – Traditional Worship Service,
Sanctuary, Rev. Mark Clinger

11:00 a.m. – Common Table Worship Service,
Fellowship Hall, Rev. Jason Mack

12:00 Noon – Light Lunch

November 19, 2017 – Thanksgiving Sunday

11:00 a.m. – Shared Worship Service, Sanctuary,
Rev. Mark Clinger

*If you would like to make a confession of faith in Christ and be baptized into his body, to become a member of this congregation, or renew your Christian commitment, you are warmly invited to call
Rev. Mark Clinger or Rev. Jason Mack (233-1880).*

Phone (608) 233-1880 * FAX (608) 233-2814

E-mail: fbcoffice@firstbaptistmadison.org

Web Page: www.firstbaptistmadison.org

Prayer Concerns

Church Family: Loree Davies; Jan Arneson; Joanne Berg; Kathryn Hill; James & Karen Evans family; Wayne Bischel's father, Jack; Bob & Lynette Miller family; Ann Nelson & family; John Hebblewhite (Art's brother); Art Hebblewhite family; Bill Lutter; Paul Brynelson; Katy Marty; Atlee Wilson; Lance Dockter; Jeff & Jeanette Kersten & family, and Jeanette's father; Ruth L. Parfrey; Paul Husting's friend, David Baer; Sheila Donald; and Linda Stamm's sister, Karen Coleman.

Our Shut-ins: Connie Smith, Pat Young; Phyllis Reisdorf; Jeanne Maruska; Linda Olson; and Joyce Tardrew.

Expecting Parents: Renally & Joab Dorea.

Others: Those whose names and needs are unspoken.

Fresh News

A Fond Farewell

The Rev. Merrill Woolnough who has been such a faithful and beloved member of our congregation, bringing her voice to our pulpit, her wisdom as a participant in Bible studies, and her kindness of heart to us all has moved. To be closer to her family, she is moving this week to her new home in Milwaukee. We said our "good-byes" this past Sunday.

Mark Clinger on Vacation

Mark will be on vacation from November 20 and returning to the office on November 27.

Julia (Mueller) Voss Preaching

On November 26, our own Julia Voss, Youth Leader, will be leading worship and preaching. The focus of her sermon will be on the summer's past youth trip. Our ministry is such an important part of our legacy of ministry and we are blessed to have someone of Julia's competence and faith working with our current generation of youth.

Hour Glass Bible Study

Hour Glass Bible Study resumed November 5 with a five-week series on the Great Commandment. We will try the Swedish method for group Bible study, which is designed to encourage individual discovery as scripture speaks. No preparation is required and all are welcome.

Welcome Olive!

Logan and Sarah Jefford announce the birth of Olive Lucille Jefford. Olive was born Monday, October 30, at 4:10 a.m. She weighed 7 lbs., 15oz. and was 19 1/2 inches long. Josie is a great big sister who loves singing the ABC's to Olive and bringing her blankets.



Olive Lucille Jefford

Third Tuesday Lunch, November 21

Third Tuesday Lunch will meet Tuesday, November 21, at noon in Fellowship Hall for a potluck meal. The main dish will be provided. Please bring a salad, vegetable, bread or dessert to share. The program will begin at 1:00 p.m. Reservations can be made by calling 233-1880, FBC office or by signing the pew pads.

Terri Johnson, from Healing House, will present the program. Healing House is a 24/7 staffed medical respite for homeless families when a family member needs a safe place to recuperate after illness or surgery. It is under the umbrella of Madison-area Urban Ministry who has assisted the poor and hurting of Dane County for over 40 years. Healing House is staffed by medically trained individuals.

You are invited to come to lunch and to this very interesting program to learn about a new caring facility in Dane county to help end the cycle of homelessness.



Cookie Time Just Around the Corner

The Women's Circle will be assembling Christmas goodies to deliver to church members on Monday, November 27, at 1:00 in the church gathering space. Please have enough for 10-12 packages. They should be wrapped or placed in individual snack bags. Long-lasting fruit like clementines or apples are also good.

Building for Ministry Debt Retirement Financial Report

as of Sept. 30, 2017

Total amount pledged or given to the Debt Retirement appeal	\$364,165
Retirement pledges/gifts received since start of the appeal	\$233,011
Retirement pledges/gifts received in third quarter	\$18,627
Member loans converted to gifts in third quarter	\$0
Total retirement pledges outstanding	\$137,807
BMO Harris loan	
Interest paid during third quarter	\$848
Principal paid during third quarter	\$3,539
Outstanding principal remaining	\$70,575
MG&E loan	
Interest paid during third quarter	\$1,682
Principal paid during third quarter	\$7,940
Outstanding principal remaining	\$115,362
Member loans	
Interest paid during third quarter	\$0
Loan repayments during third quarter	\$0
Outstanding loans	\$120,000
Total Indebtedness	\$305,937

Paying off the debt incurred by renovating our building is proceeding on schedule.

Gil Emmert
for the Building for Ministry Oversight Committee (Paul Chotlos, Vern Lowell, Mark Clinger, Nancy Emmert, Gil Emmert)

Collecting Christmas Cards and Calendars

I am collecting new Christmas cards and calendars for the residents at The Triangle where I live. I think many residents would like to engage in the tradition of giving Christmas cards but can't afford to etc. Help by recycling those "unsolicited" cards/calendars from charities. Donations of postage stamps are always welcome as well. They can be put with the adult hats and mittens basket.

Katy Marty



Adult Sunday School Schedule

2017

November 12	Evangelism (Pastor Jason will share what he learned about evangelism during his sabbatical.)
November 19	Evangelism
November 26	No Sunday School/ Thanksgiving
December 3	Intergenerational Breakfast (all-church breakfast from 9:30 10:30; evangelism with carols and an alternative giving fair)
December 10	Evangelism
December 17	Evangelism
December 24	No Sunday School
December 31	No Sunday School

2018

January 7	Kitchen Talk & Board of Outreach
January 14	Kitchen Talk & Board of Outreach
January 21	Kitchen Talk & Board of Outreach
January 28	Kitchen Talk & Board of Outreach
February 4	Kitchen Talk & Board of Outreach
February 11	Kitchen Talk & Board of Outreach
February 18	Reformation Class (tentative)
February 25	Reformation Class (tentative)
March 4	Reformation Class (tentative)
March 11	Reformation Class (tentative)
March 18	Reformation Class (tentative)
March 25	Palm Sunday Intergenerational
April 1	No Sunday School/Easter
April 8	Creation and Evolution
April 15	Creation and Evolution
April 22	Creation and Evolution
April 29	Creation and Evolution

Thanks to All Men's Shelter Volunteers

Thank you to Lynette Miller for stepping in and coordinating the Men's Shelter Meal for the month of September. Four people donated brownies for dessert. Sue Ferge furnished hard rolls. Dennis Ray furnished the salad. Sheila Donald provided the milk. The Kersten family transported and served the meal. At the last minute, my prayers were answered. Thank you and God's blessings to each every one of you that helped. According to my records, Lynette Miller has either led or helped with each meal this year...every month!! I recently learned that Lynette was the organizer. She created the program in the 1980s. God bless her!

Remember 2018: It's time to start signing up for next year! There is a sign-up list posted in the Gathering Space for you to sign up. Thank you!

Sheila Donald, FBC Men's Shelter Meal Coordinator

Common Table folks coordinated the October dinner for about 70 men at the Grace Episcopal homeless shelter in October. Assistance was provided by Loretta Anderson, Claire Angelo, Diane Rozzetto, Dennis and Mary Ray, Vern and Dori Seay, Bill and Sue Hausler, and Joan Turner. It was a good thing to do and we had fun together, too! Thanks to all!

Dennis Ray

FBC Youth Fundraising!

As you know, each year the youth work hard to fundraise to obtain funds to allow us to participate in Mission Trips. Our trip to Joplin was a huge success, and I look forward to sharing that adventure with you on Sunday, November 26. We look forward to representing FBC on another trip this summer. While we are still determining our destination, we need to start building funds to allow us to do this.

We will be selling Butter Braids to raise these funds. Butter Braids are a delicious, flaky pastry that can stay frozen for several months. They are \$12 and come in eight delicious flavors. Our goal is ambitious! We'd like to sell 200 Braids to successfully start our fundraising mission.

We will start selling this Sunday, October 29, thru Sunday, November 12. This will allow for pickup/delivery on Sunday November 19, just in time for the holidays. There is nothing easier than throwing a pastry in the oven the morning after Thanksgiving, on Christmas morning, or even Easter.

We thank you in advance for your ongoing support of the First Baptist Youth.

Julia Mueller, Youth Director



MFIS Thanksgiving Hospitality Program Hosts Urgently Needed!



Thanksgiving is rapidly approaching, and MFIS has begun matching international students and scholars with local families who will serve as hosts in this year's Thanksgiving Hospitality Program.

This highly impactful program provides international students from around the world with the chance to spend the most American of holidays with a local family. We often hear from students served by the program that being invited to share in this tradition is one of their most memorable experiences in the United States.

Currently, we need hosts for more than 40 students, and this number is expected to rise in the coming weeks. Can you help us meet our goal of placing every interested student with a local family for the Thanksgiving holiday?

If you have not already signed up, we hope you will consider opening your home to an international student (or several!) and sharing your family's Thanksgiving traditions. Your hospitality would be warmly appreciated. **To register as a Thanksgiving Host**, go to mfismadison.com and click the Thanksgiving Hospitality Link. If you do not have access to email, call 608-263-4010. **The deadline to register is November 10.**

If you cannot host but still want to help make to the 2017 Thanksgiving Hospitality Program a success, pass the message along to contacts in your neighborhood association, community group, workplace, family, friend circle, and more!

Community Old-Time Hymn Sing

Asbury United Methodist Church
Chapel (located in center of building)
6101 University Avenue, Madison, WI
November 19, 2017
2:15 PM
Everyone is welcome
For information call 608-836-6532

Reminders

**Remember: Pledge Sunday is
November 12.**

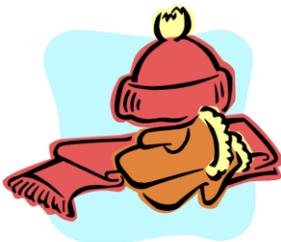
**Look for your pledge card in the mail and
bring it next Sunday.**

Help Keep Adults Warm Too with New Hats & Mittens

Now through December 3
Place them in bin by food pantry collection
Winter Is Coming!!!

It's getting to be that time of year ago. It's time to break out the winter gear. For many this may be a struggle. With budgets stretched to the breaking point, the expense can be overwhelming. To help make sure everybody stays warm this winter this year, we are having a dual collection drive of sorts.

Wynn Davies is collecting new or lightly used **winter gear (including boots) for the children** of the Allied drive neighborhood and Katy Marty is collecting **new adult hats and mittens** for the Triangle neighborhood. Donations can be dropped off in the appropriately marked bins in the Gathering Space. Thank you for your help at keeping everybody warm and toasty throughout our forecasted snowy winter season. Feel free to give Katy a call with any questions at 230-5922, Wynn's phone number is 238-1817.



Update on Human Trafficking in Wisconsin

Sex trafficking is a \$150 billion+ per year industry, and if you read the local paper, you know that it is alive in our community. The average age a child is coerced into the sex trade is 8-14 years of age. It occurs both in urban and rural areas and the main route through Wisconsin is through Milwaukee, the Fox Cities/Green Bay, Wausau and Minneapolis. Victims are recruited through the internet, social media, school, the mall, or on the street or in parks.

It is imperative that we all, and especially parents, have an awareness of this issue, know the signs and what can be done. Our church has been very generous, in its willingness to learn about this issue and in donating funds to assist those who have been affected or are vulnerable to human trafficking.

To continue to provide education to our community, SlaveFree Madison is sponsoring the following free event.

Chosen, a documentary of two girls who became victims of trafficking, 18-year old Brianna, a star student and cheerleader, and 13-year old Lacy who enjoyed church and volunteering in her community, **Sunday, 11/19, 2-4 p.m. Waunakee Village Center**. Film will be followed by an open discussion led by Tyler Schueffner of Briarpatch and Joann Gruber-Hagen of SlaveFree Madison.

These films are appropriate for teens, although contain sexual content and would be best viewed and discussed with a parent. For further information, contact Mary Fiore, fior@charter.net.





Invitation to Mt. Zion Baptist Church Men's Day Celebration

On behalf of Rev. Dr. Marcus Allen Sr., you are invited to fellowship and celebrate our Annual Men's Day with us on Saturday, November 11, 2017 and Sunday, November 12, 2017. We have a wonderful weekend planned, to be enjoyed by everyone. The theme for the weekend is "What is Your Name?" and the theme scripture is Mark 5:1-20. Our colors for Sunday are black suit, white shirt and black tie. Rev. Dr. Marcus Allen Sr. will be the speaker for our 8:00 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. Worship Services on Sunday, November 12, 2017. We look forward to you fellowshiping with us on this weekend.

Brother Boyce Hodge, Men's Day Chairperson & Rev. Dr. Marcus Allen Sr., Pastor

2017 Men's Day Program Saturday, November 11, Workshop

- 8:30-9:30 Registration & Breakfast
 9:30-10:30 Breakout Sessions
36 & Older
 "How to Love the Inner & Outer You"
 Presenter: Dr. Willie Larkin
- 35 & Younger
 "Young Adult Men Proper Connections"
 Presenter: Jamal Eubanks "Fuel or Crutch"
- 10:45-11:45 Group Morning Session
 Interaction with Police
 Presenters:
 Rev. Larry Jackson, Sr.
 Rev. Colier McNair
 Rev. David Smith
 Henry Sanders, Jr.
 Rev. Patrick Yates
- 12:00-1:00 Group Afternoon Session
 Men's Health, Wellness and Finances
 Presenters: Phil Watters & Daniel Moore



1 Jeff Bybee
1 Jim Lutter

3 Sarah Buhler
3 Anna Kolden

5 Tim Thompson

7 Judy Rundell

8 Diana Long
8 Carla Eakins

9 Joy Miller

10 Mary Fiore
10 Jonah Henderson
10 Barbara Ingham
10 Tonya Torosian

13 Una Torosian
13 Laura Clark-Taylor

14 Deb Chotlos
14 Grace Ingham

17 Bruce Miller
17 Barbara Mueller

20 Mark Clinger
20 Jill Thomas

21 Jean Julian
21 Ruth Parfrey
21 Margaret Porco

23 Heather Bybee
23 Manjari Miller

24 Chuck Philyaw
24 Jamie Seales

25 Brooke Siddell

26 Stephen Brynelson

28 Craig Torosian

The Visitor Publication Schedule

November 20, 2017

December 4, 2017

**Article deadline is 9 a.m.
on day of publication.**

Email to: fbcoffice@firstbaptistmadison.org

If any additions, deletions, or corrections need to be made to the birthday lists, please notify Linda in the church office at fbcoffice@firstbaptistmadison.org or call 233-1880.

The Visitor

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

518 N Franklin Ave, Madison WI 53705-3699

(608-233-1880)

(Affiliated with the American Baptist Churches, USA)

<p>Worship Schedule</p> <p>11:00 a.m. - Traditional Worship</p> <p>11:00 a.m. - Contemporary "Common Table" Worship</p>
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

TIME VALUE: DATED MATERIAL -

MAILED - 11/6/17